

REMARKS

Claims 6-14 have been examined. Claims 6-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,166,826 to Yokoyama (“Yokoyama”).

A. Claims 6-12

Applicant submits that claims 6-12 are patentable over the cited reference. For example claims 6-12 recite that when the image data is stored in the second memory section, the image data is given delete preventing data.

The Examiner refers to column 15, lines 53-57, of Yokoyama, and maintains that the use of a password, to delete the print data, discloses a type of “delete preventing data” (pg. 7 of Office Action). The cited portion of Yokoyama refers to Figure 15. Figure 15 depicts an attribute information listing screen which will be displayed on monitor 45 (col. 7, lines 62-64; col. 11, lines 4-11).

Applicant submits that the cited portion of Yokoyama fails to teach or suggest the claimed delete preventing data. For example, claims 6-12 recite that after printing is completed, the image data is stored in the second memory section. Further, the claims recite that when the image data is stored in the second memory section, the image data is given delete preventing data. In other words, all of the *printed* image data is given the delete preventing data. There is no discrimination performed such that only some of the printed image data is given the delete preventing data, while other printed image data is not. On the other hand, the brief “password”

description in Yokoyama discloses that a file with “secret specification” can be deleted only if a password match is found. Accordingly, only the files with “secret specification” are given the password data. Therefore, not all printed files are provided with the alleged delete preventing data.

Further, there is no teaching or suggestion as to “when” the secret specification files are given the password data, i.e., there is no teaching that at a time when the files are stored in the storage unit 37 (alleged second memory section) after printing, they are then given the password data.

As disclosed in the non-limiting embodiment on page 9 of the present Application, after completion of printing, the image data is stored in the local disc 24 (i.e., second memory section), and at that time, a header portion of the image data is given delete preventing data. Since all of the image data stored in the local disc 24 are given the delete preventing data, if a reprint, for example, is requested, it will not be necessary to receive the image data from the server computer 4 again. Operations are thus improved.

In view of the above, even by assuming *arguendo* that the password data of Yokoyama discloses a type of delete preventing data, the reference still fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 6-12 are patentable over the cited reference.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/533,107

B. Claims 13 and 14

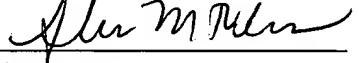
Since claims 13 and 14 are dependent upon one of claims 6 and 7, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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